Message Text

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TAGS: TECH, PARM, GW

SUBJECT: HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU) FOR RESEARCH

APPLICATIONS

REF: (A) BONN 19361; (B) STATE 271079; (C) BONN 18337 (ALL REFS 1976)

- 1. GERMAN PRESS AGENCY (DPA) REPORTS, IN STORY DATE-LINED WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 29, THAT AMERICAN ENVIRON-MENTAL ORGANIZATION (NATIONAL RESOURCES COUNCIL) HAS PETITIONED US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TO STOP THE EXPORT OF HIGHLY-ENRICHED URANIUM TO THE FRG FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW REACTORS WHICH INCREASE THE RISKS OF PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND BECAUSE GERMANY HAS SHOWN THAT IT IS PREPARED TO EXPORT SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY TO BRAZIL. NEWS STORY SPECULATES THAT THIS PETITION WILL LEAD TO PUBLIC HEARING.
- 2. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, WHICH WAS PICKED UP BY THE "FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU", 16 KILOGRAMS OF HEU HAVE BEEN ORDERED FOR THE JUELICH HIGH TEMPERATURE REACTOR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR A FAST BREEDER REACTOR IN KARLSRUHE AND FOR BASIC RESEARCH IN MUNICH - GARCHING. ACCORDING TO DPA, FRG HAS RECEIVED SOME 4000 KILOGRAMS OF HEU FROM US IN PAST TWENTY YEARS FOR THESE AND OTHER NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE HEU ORDER IN QUESTION IS

CLEARLY THE THIRD OF THE THREE HEU ORDERS LISTED IN REF B. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, ANY IMPLICATION THAT THE USG MAY NOT BE A RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF NUCLEAR FUEL CAUSES SERIOUS CONCERN HERE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A CABLED REPORT ABOUT THE STATUS OF THESE FOUR GERMAN ORDERS FOR HEU DISCUSSED IN REFTELS AND AUTHORIZATION TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH FRG OFFICIALS, IF NECESSARY.

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